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The University of Peradeniya Launches CN ePortfolio

The largest university in Sri Lanka, the University of Peradeniya recently adopted CN ePortfolio institution-wide. Different from other institutions, the university joined CN as one of the first participating members of the CN World, a non-profit entity of the CourseNetworking project.

Inspired by Augustana University's ePortfolio webinar, the University of Peradeniya decided to incorporate CN ePortfolio first with their faculty and staff training, and from there, introduce it to their students. The university believes in the power of portfolio-based education in promoting self-directed and self-reflective learning and professional development. They expect to use ePortfolio to promote personal growth and infuse a sense of responsibility and the value of learning.

The overall objectives of the ePortfolio initiative at the University of Peradeniya are to promote the practice of portfolios, encourage the practice of mentorship, and expand the horizon of learning by incorporating competencies into portfolios and authentic assessments. To accomplish these objectives, the university will initiate ePortfolio training at the Staff Development Center (SDC) and provide training to faculty core groups. Students will engage in reflective and self-directed learning beyond subject-based education to incorporate learning skills, interpersonal skills, intrapersonal skills, and meta-learning. Students will also showcase their talents by creating ePortfolios as an alternative to resumes to reflect the current industry expectations. The success of the introduction of ePortfolio will be measured by a set of unique indicators and the impact of the program will be evaluated throughout the implementation.

In March, the CN team delivered the admin and pedagogical training to the university leaders and core faculty members. CN ePortfolio has been integrated with the University of Peradeniya's Moodle system to support automated account creation and course enrollment. The university also received various resources, including ePortfolio examples, assignment templates, and sample rubrics from the CN team. The training participants were excited and eager to start. The academic program leads, such as Professor Roshan Ragel, have created their CN ePortfolios. As Professor Rasnayaka Mudiyanse, the Director of SDC, has shared, "I can see a 'paradigm shift' through the ePortfolio initiative".

As the next step, the university will also explore using CN Pathway LMS to deliver self-paced online professional development courses to their faculty and staff. After core faculty receive the training and develop their ePortfolios, they will guide their students to create ePortfolios and conduct ePortfolio-based assessments. Computer Engineering, Physics, Agriculture, Dental Sciences, Medicine, Veterinary Sciences, and Allied Health Sciences are among the first academic programs to integrate CN ePortfolio this year. Both the university and the CN team are looking forward to ongoing collaboration in technology development, pedagogy innovation, and academic research.